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News Release

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15 indicted for distributing cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and ecstasy

MINNEAPOLIS – B. Todd Jones, United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, announced that a federal indictment has been filed against 15 individuals for allegedly distributing cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and the semisynthetic psychedelic drug MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy. The indictment, originally filed under seal in U.S. District Court in Minnesota on March 17, 2010, was unsealed yesterday following the initial appearance of seven of the 15 individuals in federal court.

The indictment alleges the defendants conspired to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 or more kilograms of cocaine, 500 or more grams of methamphetamine, 100 or more kilograms of marijuana, and 1,000 tablets (250 grams) of ecstasy in Minnesota between January 2008 and March 2010. Charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances are Walter Ochoa, also known as Chewey, age 40; Mykayla Marie Golden, age 21; and Gustavo Jimenez Contreras, age 32; all of Columbia Heights. The same charge was filed against Jeremy Michael Mendoza, age 33, and Shakeel Perfection Allah, age 38, both of Minneapolis; Jeffrey Lee Dolson, age 29, and John Michael Jourdain, age 43, both of Red Lake; Juan Manuel Maldonado, age 35, of Lakeville; Landis Hardley Benton, age 33, of Annandale; Adrian Hernandez, age 23, of Sauk Rapids; David Carbajal, Jr., age 41, of St. Cloud; Ivan Aguirre, also known as Primo, age 36, unknown address; Alexander Guevara, age 21, of Pomona, California; Ivan De Jesus Gonzalez, age 27, of Los Angeles, California; and Alejandro Serrano Lopez, age 24, of Mexico. Ochoa, Maldonado, Mendoza, Benton, Jourdain, Hernandez, and Carbajal have appeared before a U.S. Magistrate.

If convicted, the 15 defendants face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration; the U.S.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Minneapolis Police Department; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Minnesota State Patrol; the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office; and the U.S. Marshals Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven L. Schleicher.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.